



by RADM R. DENNIS SIROIS  
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# Assistant Commandant's Perspective



by RADM T. H. GILMOUR  
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Throughout our nation's history, the oceans, lakes, and rivers have been vital to our prosperity and to our security. Today, we continue to depend on these maritime highways for a Global Transportation System that delivers goods and materials to factories and stores across our country. The oceans and waterways are also favorite areas for recreation. For most of our history, warfare and perils such as piracy were first on our minds when we thought of threats to maritime security. Today, however, we also face a determined and resourceful terrorist enemy who would turn the vehicles of peaceful transportation—including ships, as well as planes, trains, and trucks—into deadly instruments of destruction.

A government has no higher duty than to protect its citizens. The president has called for a fully coordinated government effort to safeguard our interests in the Global Maritime Domain. Because a robust international effort is essential to achieving this objective, the president required that international outreach be an integral part of the strategy. We are committed to building and sustaining alliances within the community of nations to help achieve the goal of a more secure world. At a time when global terrorism, rogue states, international crime, and weapons of mass destruction threaten the world's oceans and waterways, no one nation can accomplish this goal alone. Success will come through the hard work of a powerful coalition of nations, focused on protecting the world's maritime interests.

To safeguard the maritime domain, the United States must forge cooperative partnerships and alliances with other nations, as well as with public and private stakeholders in the international community. We cannot and should not attempt to patrol every coastline, inspect every ship, screen every passenger, or peer into every container crossing the world's oceans. To foster stronger partnerships within the international community, the United States must have a coordinated and consistent approach to building international support and cooperation to reinforce global maritime security. We will propose ideas, and encourage others to do the same. We will speak frankly. We will also listen carefully. We will work together. Security must be a team effort.

The United States Coast Guard takes a layered and cooperative approach to maritime security, utilizing the expertise of federal, state, and local authorities as well as that of the private sector and of international partners to create a system of security measures to protect one end of a sea-based journey to the other. The goal is to harmonize security measures and economic growth. The layered, often interlocked or interrelated, security measures are designed to make it harder for terrorists or transnational criminal groups to attack the United States or harm our interests. These layered measures seek to protect the American public and the maritime commerce chain.

What follows in this issue of *Proceedings* is an overview of our current maritime security programs and initiatives.

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